IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1-11 and 19-30; AMEND claims 12 and 17 and ADD new claim 31 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A communication-method notification method for use in a communications system selectively employing different application-layer communication method installed in user information terminals on a network for users to communicate with one another above the network's transport layer at the network's application layer by the different methods, the method comprising:

for each user, storing types of the application-layer communication methods operable by users' information terminals;

receiving a destination-user designation from a source user requesting communication;

based on the stored types of application-layer communication methods, generating a first list describing only application-layer communication methods that are each operable in both the destination user's information terminal and the source user's information terminal;

~~generating a second list describing~~ <u>receiving a download condition and an execution</u> <u>condition regarding at least</u> one ~~or more~~ application-layer communication method present at ~~either~~ <u>one, but not both, of a pair of</u> the destination ~~or~~ <u>and</u> source user's information terminal<u>s in</u> <u>communication with each other</u> ~~and not at the other~~, and downloadable to <u>one of</u> the ~~terminal~~ pair not having the communication method present and executable <u>thereon;</u> ~~said terminal~~

<u>generating a second list describing the at least one application-layer communication</u> <u>method</u>; and

reporting a third list composite of the first list and the second list to the source user before communication begins.

13. (Previously Presented) The communication-method notification method set forth in claim 12, wherein said second list comprises a description of a communication method not

present on either the destination nor the source user's information terminal, and downloadable to both terminals and executable on both terminals.

14. (Previously Presented)   The communication-method notification method set forth in claim 12, wherein:

download conditions for downloading communication methods to users' information terminals and execution conditions for executing communication methods on users' information terminals are stored in advance for each downloadable communication method; and

the second list is generated based on terminal information and download conditions and execution conditions for users' information terminals.

15. (Previously Presented)   The communication-method notification method set forth in claim 12, wherein:

selection of any of the communication methods on the third list is received from the source user and the selected communication method is reported to the destination user's information terminal; and

if the destination user's information terminal does not have the selected communication means, the destination user's information terminal acquires the selected communication method by downloading.

16. (Previously Presented)   A computer-readable recording medium whereon is recorded a program for executing the communication-method notification method set forth in the foregoing claim 12.

17. (Currently Amended)   A communication-method notification system for use in a communications system selectively employing different application-layer communication methods installed in user information terminals on a network for users to communicate with one another above the network's transport layer at the network's application layer by the different methods, the system comprising:

a first table for each user storing types of the application-layer communication methods operable by users' information terminals;

a designation unit receiving destination-user designations from source users requesting communication;

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a communication software archive storing at least one communication application, and a download condition and an execution condition related to each communication application and defining conditions at a terminal required to respectively download and execute the communication application related thereto;

a first generating unit generating a list, based on the types of application-layer communication methods stored in said first table, describing only application-layer communication methods that are each operable on both destination users' information terminals and source users' information terminals;

a second generating unit ~~generating a second list describing~~ referring to said communication software archive to acquire the download condition and the execution condition of at least one ~~or more~~ application-layer communication method present at ~~either a~~ one, but not both, of a pair of the destination ~~or a~~ and source user's information terminals in communication with each ~~and not at the~~ other, and downloadable to one of the ~~terminal~~ pair not having the communication method present and executable thereon, and generating a second list describing the at least one application-layer communication method ~~said terminal~~; and

a notification unit reporting a third list composite of the first list and the second list to ~~the~~ each source user before communication begins.

18. (Previously Presented) A communication method supply device for use in the communication-method notification system set forth in claim 17, including:

a creation unit creating a downloadable-executable list of communication methods downloadable to information terminals and executable on the information terminals for destination users and source users respectively; and

a supply unit supplying communication methods included in the downloadable-executable list to user information terminals.

Claims 19-30 (Cancelled)

31. (New) The communication-method notification system set forth in claim 17, further comprising a destination notification unit notifying a destination user's information terminal of the download condition and the execution condition of a selected application-layer communication method selected from the third list when the destination user's information terminal needs to download the selected application-layer communication method.